

CLAIMS

We claim:

- 5 1. A method for automatically notifying, by a telecommunications network, a subscriber that the subscriber has talked on a mobile terminal for a subscriber-defined amount of time, the method comprising the steps of:
- defining an interval for at least one category of usage of a mobile terminal that is operatively connected to a telecommunication network;
- 10 storing, at the telecommunication network, the defined interval for the at least one category of usage of the mobile terminal;
- monitoring, by the telecommunication network, a time that a call has been active on the mobile terminal;
- comparing the time that the call has been active to the stored at least one
- 15 interval; and
- sending a predetermined notification signal from the telecommunication system to the mobile terminal when the time that the call has been active exceeds the stored interval.
- 20 2. The method of claim 1 wherein at least one of the category, the interval and the predetermined notification signal are user-defined via the mobile terminal.

3. The method of claim 1 wherein the method further comprises, after the call has first exceeded the interval, again monitoring a second time that the call has been active on the mobile terminal, and sending another predetermined notification signal from the telecommunication system to the mobile terminal when
5 the second time that the call has been active exceeds the stored interval that is associated with the current applicable category.

4. The method of claim 1 wherein the method further comprises periodically monitoring the time that the call has been active on the mobile terminal,
10 and sending the predetermined notification signal from the telecommunication system to the mobile terminal upon each occurrence of the time that the call has been active exceeding the stored interval that is associated with the current applicable category.

15 5. The method of claim 1 wherein the predetermined notification signal comprises at least one of a tone message, a voice message, and a visual message, and wherein each of the tone message, voice message, and visual message is selectable at the mobile terminal and storable in the telecommunication network.

20 6. The method of claim 1 wherein the method further comprise selecting and storing the predetermined notification signal from at least one of a tone message, a voice message, and a visual message, and wherein each of the tone message, voice message, and visual message is selectable at the mobile terminal and storable in the telecommunication network.

7. The method of claim 6 wherein the tone message is at least one of a single tone, a series of tones, a respective one of a plurality of tones that is associated with a respective one of a plurality of intervals associated with consecutive
5 occurrences of times when the call exceeds the stored interval that is associated with the current applicable category.

8. The method of claim 1 wherein the category comprises at least one of daytime minutes, nighttime minutes, peak minutes, weekday minutes, and weekend
10 minutes.

9. The method of claim 1 wherein the method further comprises entering a disable code at the mobile terminal at least during the call, the disable code instructing the telecommunication network to cease sending notification signals.
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10. A method for automatically notifying, by a telecommunications network, a subscriber that the subscriber has talked on a mobile terminal for a subscriber-defined amount of time, the method comprising the steps of:

defining a plurality of categories of usage of a mobile terminal;

5 defining a respective interval for each category of the plurality of categories of usage of the mobile terminal that is operatively connected to a telecommunication network;

storing, at the telecommunication network, the defined intervals and the respectively associated categories of usage;

10 determining for the call a current applicable category of the plurality of categories for the mobile terminal;

monitoring, by the telecommunication network, a time that a call has been active on the mobile terminal;

15 comparing the time the call has been active to the stored interval that is associated with the current applicable category; and

sending a predetermined notification signal from the telecommunication system to the mobile terminal when the time that the call has been active exceeds the stored interval that is associated with the current applicable category.

20 11. The method of claim 10 wherein at least one of the categories, the intervals and the predetermined notification signals are user-defined via the mobile terminal.

12. The method of claim 10 wherein the method further comprises, after the call has first exceeded the interval, again monitoring a second time that the call has been active on the mobile terminal, and sending another predetermined notification signal from the telecommunication system to the mobile terminal when
5 the second time that the call has been active exceeds the stored interval that is associated with the current applicable category.

13. The method of claim 10 wherein the method further comprises periodically monitoring the time that the call has been active on the mobile terminal,
10 and sending the predetermined notification signal from the telecommunication system to the mobile terminal upon each occurrence of the time that the call has been active exceeding the stored interval that is associated with the current applicable category.

15 14. The method of claim 10 wherein the predetermined notification signal comprises at least one of a tone message, a voice message, and a visual message, and wherein each of the tone message, voice message, and visual message is selectable at the mobile terminal and storable in the telecommunication network.

20 15. The method of claim 10 wherein the method further comprise selecting and storing a respective predetermined notification signal from at least one of a tone message, a voice message, and a visual message, and wherein each of the tone message, voice message, and visual message is selectable at the mobile terminal and storable in the telecommunication network.

16. The method of claim 15 wherein the tone message is at least one of a single tone, a series of tones, a respective one of a plurality of tones that is associated with a respective one of a plurality of intervals associated with consecutive occurrences of times when the call exceeds the stored interval that is associated with the current applicable category.

17. The method of claim 10 wherein the categories comprises at least one of daytime minutes, nighttime minutes, peak minutes, weekday minutes, and weekend minutes.

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18. The method of claim 10 wherein the method further comprises entering a disable code at the mobile terminal at least during the call, the disable code instructing the telecommunication network to cease sending notification signals.

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19. A system for providing automatic notification, by a telecommunications network, to a subscriber that the subscriber has talked on a mobile terminal for a subscriber-defined amount of time, the system comprising:

- 5 a mobile terminal that is operatively connected to a telecommunication network;
- a call controller in the telecommunication network for controlling a call for the mobile terminal;
- a plurality of categories of usage of a mobile terminal;
- a respective interval for each category of the plurality of categories of usage;
- 10 a storage in the telecommunication network operatively connected to the call controller, the defined intervals and the respectively associated categories of usage being stored in the storage;
- determination module operatively connected to the storage and to the call controller, the determination module determining for the call a current applicable
- 15 category of the plurality of categories for the mobile terminal;
- monitoring module operatively connected to the call controller, the monitoring module monitoring a time that the call has been active on the mobile terminal;
- comparator module operatively connected to the monitoring module and to
- 20 the storage, the comparator module comparing the time the call has been active to the stored interval that is associated with the current applicable category; and
- notification module operatively connected to the comparator module and to the call controller, the notification module sending a predetermined notification signal from the telecommunication system to the mobile terminal when the time that

the call has been active exceeds the stored interval that is associated with the current applicable category.

20. The system of claim 19 wherein at least one of the categories, the
5 intervals and the predetermined notification signals are user-defined via the mobile terminal.

21. The system of claim 19 wherein the monitoring module, the
comparator module and the notification module are structured such that, after the call
10 has first exceeded the interval, again monitoring a second time that the call has been active on the mobile terminal, and sending another predetermined notification signal from the telecommunication system to the mobile terminal when the second time that the call has been active exceeds the stored interval that is associated with the current applicable category.

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22. The system of claim 19 wherein the method further comprises
periodically monitoring the time that the call has been active on the mobile terminal,
and sending the predetermined notification signal from the telecommunication
system to the mobile terminal upon each occurrence of the time that the call has been
20 active exceeding the stored interval that is associated with the current applicable category.

23. The system of claim 19 wherein the predetermined notification signal
comprises at least one of a tone message, a voice message, and a visual message, and

wherein each of the tone message, voice message, and visual message is selectable at the mobile terminal and storable in the telecommunication network.

24. The system of claim 19 wherein respective predetermined notification
5 signals are stored for at least one of a tone message, a voice message, and a visual message, and wherein each of the tone message, voice message, and visual message is selectable at the mobile terminal and storable in the telecommunication network.

25. The system of claim 24 wherein the tone message is at least one of a
10 single tone, a series of tones, a respective one of a plurality of tones that is associated with a respective one of a plurality of intervals associated with consecutive occurrences of times when the call exceeds the stored interval that is associated with the current applicable category.

15 26. The system of claim 19 wherein the categories comprises at least one of daytime minutes, nighttime minutes, peak minutes, weekday minutes, and weekend minutes.

27. The system of claim 19 wherein the system further comprises a
20 disable code that is enterable at the mobile terminal at least during the call, the disable code instructing the telecommunication network to cease sending notification signals.